AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph prior to paragraph [0001] of the published specification.

This disclosure claims priority under 35 USC § 119 to European Application No. 03405519.4, filed July 10, 2003, and under 35 USC § 371 to International Application No. PCT/CH2004/000417, filed July 1, 2004, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Kindly replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] **[[**The**]]** Another embodiment ~~as claimed in claim 6~~ has the advantage that the magnetic field acts directly on the current-carrying movable electrode and sets it into motion by the Lorenz force. The Lorenz force is proportional to the product of the magnetic field strength and the current. The magnetic field can be produced externally, especially constantly or in a switchable manner, or internally, especially by the current which is to be limited. By balancing the Lorenz force and a suitable resetting force the resulting motion can be adapted to the overcurrent to be limited and to the electrode deflection which is necessary for the required electrical resistance.

Kindly replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] ~~Claim 7 specifies~~ Another embodiment includes dimensioning criteria for optimum design of the dynamics of the current limitation process.

Kindly replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] ~~Claims 8 and 9 give~~ Other advantageous embodiments **[[**with**]]** include a liquid metal and/or a sliding contact-solid state conductor as the movable electrode. In particular, high voltages and high currents can be efficiently and reliably managed by a series connection of liquid metal columns in alternation with a dielectric.

Kindly replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] ~~As claimed in the invention, the~~ The liquid metal 3 or in general a movable electrode 3, 3' is set into motion by an automatic electromagnetic interaction with the overcurrent I_2 which is to be limited. In the case of a liquid metal 3, it remains in the liquid aggregate state and is moved by forced motion selectively between the different positions x_1, x_{12} or x_2. The pinch effect is not used here. Very fast current limitation reaction times of down to less than 1 ms can be achieved. Moreover, in addition to the rated current path 30 and the current limitation path 31 there is an insulating clearance 32.